

Exhibit No. 14Date 3-10-09Bill No. HB 123**MILES CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

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Monday, March 09, 2009

Senate Finance and Claims Committee  
Montana Senate  
Helena, MT 59601

Attention: Senators Keith Bales, Dave Lewis, Gregory Barkus, Debby Barrett, John Brenden, John Brueggeman, John Esp, Rick Laible, Jim Peterson, Rick Ripley, Ryan Zinke, Mike Cooney, Steven Gallus, Ken Hansen, Bob Hawks, Trudi Schmidt, Mitch Tropila, David Wanzenried, Carol Williams, Taryn Purdy, and Prudence Gildroy.

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Miles City Area Economic Development Council and as a representative of Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (a regional CRDC **we are urging your support for HB 123 and a YES VOTE to extend the "sunset" clause on the 8 State Economic Development Programs funded by coal tax trust funds!**

It is critical that our regional CRDCs, local EDC's and our statewide SBDC be funded, at the minimum, at the level we have had the past 10 years if we cannot increase the funding that is desperately needed. These programs are the foundation of economic development programs in Montana and without these programs the regional, county and local economic development offices such as ours in Colstrip and Miles City will disappear in 2010.

These groups are vital, necessary and extremely important for the many counties and communities in our state, especially now in these difficult economic times. Our communities depend on the personal assistance and financial assistance through RLF funds to help businesses stay operating and to assist in new business development whenever possible.

**Please vote YES to HB 123 to continue to support economic development for our Montana communities.**

Sincerely,



Mike Coryell,  
Executive Director